

Montana State Senate



SENATOR DUANE ANKNEY

SENATE DISTRICT 20

HELENA ADDRESS
PO BOX 200500
HELENA MT 59620-0500
PHONE (406) 444-4800

COMMITTEES
ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS - CHAIR
FINANCE AND CLAIMS
NATURAL RESOURCES

HOME ADDRESS
PO BOX 138
COLSTRIP, MT
(406) 740-0629

Commissioner Brendan Carr
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC

July 31, 2018

RE. WT Docket No. 17-79

Dear CommiS5ioner Carr

As a State Senator of a large rural Senate district in Montana, I would urge the commission to support policies that will build out our rural wireless and broadband network.

As the economy swings way from a more traditional natural resource economy, broadband and wireless become of the utmost importance to rural Montana. The first thing a potential company will ask is, Do you have broadband?

My Senate District borders on two Indian reservations, Crow and Cheyenne, where unemployment often reaches 50-60 percent. So bringing the modern world to rural areas is a matter of survival for many rural communities.

Where I see the problem is, that most of investment capital is spent in the larger urban areas. This is primarily due to the high regulatory cost and the cost recovery can be made in those areas. This leaves the rural areas out. I believe that by reducing the high regulatory costs in the urban areas would leave more dollars to development in the rural areas. Establishing timelines by modernizing the permitting process would also help in building out into the rural areas.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Duane Ankney".

Senator Duane Ankney

Chairman Energy, Telecommunications Committee